

Iraq seeks U.N. clarification

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said Tuesday Tel Aviv had accepted a United Nations proposal to revive discontinued peace talks with Iraq, Tel Aviv Radio reported. But Velayati added that points of the plan must be clarified before the two countries can hold direct talks. Velayati said Iran's decision to accept a proposal by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, urging the two countries to sit down for two months of direct talks aimed at reaching a permanent peace settlement, had been communicated to the U.N. The radio, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Velayati as saying that Perez de Cuellar would have to clarify how the points of U.N. Resolution 396, which both countries accepted previous to the August 1968 ceasefire in their eight-year conflict, would be followed. "We'll be complete one point and only then go to the other point," Velayati added. The Iranians demanded that Iraqi forces have to withdraw from Iranian territory seized in the closing weeks of the war before any other points can be discussed. Iraq still occupies about 1,000 square kilometers of Iranian territory.

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King congratulates Abdou Diouf

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent a cable of congratulations to Senegal's Abdou Diouf on the occasion of his country's national day. King Hussein expressed his best wishes to the president and the people of Senegal.

Badran meets Tapline official

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Muad Badran had a meeting in his office Tuesday with Harry Alter, trans-Arabian pipeline (Tapline) company vice-president with whom he discussed the Kingdom's relations with the company, based in Saudi Arabia. The company's representative in Jordan Jamal Sararach who is also a Parliament member representing Kank and Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al-Taher, were present at the meeting.

Contract signed for agricultural lab

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Agriculture, Suleiman Arabyat, signed behalf of the government a \$2.5 million contract with Hamilton Industries for laboratory casework. The contract is part of the larger national agricultural development project, which is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Michael Stringer, vice-president for marketing and sales, signed on behalf of Hamilton Industries. The casework, fixed laboratory equipment, and related items will be manufactured at Hamilton's facilities in Wisconsin, USA, and will be shipped to Jordan for installations beginning in early 1991. The bulk of the equipment is destined for the Ministry of Agriculture's National Centre for Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer at Baqa. Regional Agricultural Services Centres at Ramtha, Mushtagar, Rabba, and Shobak will also receive some of this equipment.

U.N. chief opposes veto power for Japan, Germany

PARIS (R) — U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said in an interview published Tuesday he was opposed to an extension of Security Council veto power to Japan and a unified Germany. "There are people who say that the right of the veto (exercised by the present five permanent members) is unjust," Perez de Cuellar told the Paris daily Le Figaro. "So why should it be necessary to increase the number of countries that exercise it?" He added: "We already have enough problems dealing with five. It will be much more difficult coping with seven. In any case that will open the door. The Latin Americans will say why not us. And the Africans too. The veto power should not be enlarged. (It would be) better to reduce it."

35 prisoners give up after riot

MANCHESTER (AP) — Thirty-five inmates who had rioted at Newgate prison surrendered Tuesday morning after a three-day siege, but a fight broke out when 20 more prisoners tried to give up. The 20 inmates who tried to surrender were physically blocked by other prisoners and no police officers were injured in the clash, said Ivor Serle, chairman of the local branch of the prison officers' association. After the initial 35 inmates gave up Tuesday morning, British authorities had said they were negotiating with the remaining 64 prisoners, trying to bring an end to the three days of rioting in which at least 51 people were injured.

Lebanese army captain shot dead

SIDON (R) — Three masked gunmen shot dead a Lebanese army officer in South Lebanon Tuesday, security sources said. They said the unidentified men who were in a green BMW car intercepted Captain Yousef Nasrani as he left his house in the village of Abra east of the southern port city of Sidon, 40 kilometers south of Beirut.

'Saddam Hussein did not threaten anybody, but affirmed Iraq's ability to face aggression'

King defends Iraq, hits U.S. Senate resolution

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday defended Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's announcement that Iraq possesses sophisticated chemical weapons as part of Iraq's legitimate right of self defence.

"It is a concerted campaign (against Iraq) and we are aware of its origins and objectives," the King said. "It springs from an old and deep-rooted enmity towards the Arab Nation, and from aggressive designs to prevent Arabs from achieving progress and strength," he said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Saddam Hussein Monday announced that his country had developed deadly binary nerve gas weapons and warned Israel that he will use them to destroy half of

the Jewish state if Israel attacks Iraqi installations.

He said Iraq developed the weapons before the end of its war with Iran but did not use them in the war.

Iraq, unlike Israel, had signed a ouver Non-Proliferation Treaty and allowed international inspection of its facilities.

The King said: "Israel is a nuclear power that refuses to sign the ouever arms Non-Proliferation Treaty. Iraq, on the other hand, signed and ratified the treaty, which means that Iraqi nuclear installations are open for inspection by an international organisation. Nevertheless, we see that the campaign concentrates on Iraq and not on Israel, the only state in the Middle East to have nuclear arms. This means, simply, that aggressive

intentions lie behind the campaign."

He said the "iniquitous campaign now waged against Iraq makes it incumbent on all Arabs to waste no time in closing their ranks and unifying their positions to protect our Arab identity and nation, and affirm the Arab natural right to scientific and technological progress."

King Hussein also criticised last month's U.S. Senate resolution acknowledging Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and should remain so.

The resolution ... harms the exports being made to bring peace to the Middle East, and diminishes the hope of achieving peace," the King said. "The resolution came as a surprise to us

(Continued on page 5)

Iraq calls for emergency Arab meeting for solidarity

TUNIS (Agencies) — Iraq has asked the Arab League Council to hold an emergency meeting to express solidarity with Baghdad against Israel, the United States and other foreign powers considered hostile, a league official said Tuesday.

The league circulated the request to member states Monday and the meeting at ambassador level will probably take place on Thursday, Assistant Secretary-General Adnan Omran told Reuters.

Iraq wants the meeting to discuss "the hostile campaigns against Iraq by Israel, the United States and certain powers and Arab solidarity in the face of these campaigns," he added.

Tension between Iraq and the West is high after Britain and the United States accused Baghdad of trying to buy U.S.-made triggers for nuclear bombs and smuggling them through Britain.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein said Monday there was a plot against Iraq and warned that chemical weapons would be used in retaliation against any Israeli attack on his country.

Iraqis staged rallies throughout the country Tuesday to support Hussein and his announcement that Iraq possesses sophisticated chemical weapons.

Iraqi officials, meanwhile said that the president's vow to incinerate half of Israel if attacked

"We have seen these reports, and if they are true, what we have

seen is inflammatory, irresponsible and outrageous," Tuwiler said, reading from a prepared statement that she described as "very strong."

Demonstrators marched in Baghdad and other Iraqi cities carrying banners condemning the United States, Britain and Israel for interfering in Iraq's internal affairs.

Demonstrators in Baghdad, carrying huge portraits of the president, denounced the "Anglo-American-Zionist conspiracy," which Hussein said was planned against his country.

They chanted slogans heralding the achievements of the Iraqi military industry.

An Iraqi official, who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity, said his country's officials believe "there is a military operation designed by the Israelis with the authorisation and encouragement of the United States of America and Britain."

He cited Israeli warnings in recent months about Iraq's growing military strength.

Hassan himself said Western criticism of Iraq for executing a British-based reporter on spying charges and its attempts to purchase electronic parts allegedly useful for atomic bombs was intended to pave the way for an Israeli attack.

(Continued on page 5)

Israelis launch 'spy' satellite; Iraqi warning dominates news

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel launched its second satellite into orbit Tuesday and its political leaders responded defiantly to an Iraqi warning of retribution if the Jewish state attacked Iraqi installations.

A rocket carrying the Ofek-2 probe, said by foreign sources to be a military reconnaissance satellite, blasted off from a launchpad in central Israel at 3 p.m. (1200 GMT). A large crowd of journalists and sightseers watched from a distance.

The satellite is widely viewed in the Arab World as a spy craft that will allow Israel to have immediate intelligence on Arab military moves.

But Israel space agency head Yuval Neeman denied that the satellite had any military purpose.

Labour Party leader Shimon Peres, trying to form a new government after his coalition with Shamir collapsed last month, said the Jewish state was not looking for war but for security.

Asked if the launch was a message to Iraq, he told reporters: "I think it reminds him that if he wants to deal with Israel he should look for other means than military."

Israel went ahead with the launch a day after Iraqi President

Iran from reporting on Israel's nuclear, chemical or missile programmes.

Photographers at the launch site said the rocket roared westwards over the Mediterranean sea, blazing a flaming trail of white exhaust into a clear sky.

Israel is the only country that has launched satellites from east to west, against the earth's rotation, apparently to avoid any risk of the rocket falling on Arab states.

Both the satellites and the boosters were manufactured by the state-owned Israel Aircraft Industries, the country's largest military-industrial concern.

In September 1988, Israel launched what it called an experimental communications satellite — Ofek-1 — into orbit.

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Military censors bar journalists

(Continued on page 5)

Badran praises Iraq

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Muad Badran said Tuesday that the Iraqi stand, as voiced by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Monday, "is an honourable one which all Arabs should be proud of."

In a statement to the Iraqi News Agency, Badran called for a "unified Arab stand to fend off the challenges and conspiracies being hatched against the Arab Nation and its interests."

This pan-Arab stand should also include a call for peace, respect for the rights of others and non-interference in the internal affairs of other states," he said.

Badran stressed that relations among nations should be based on "civilised humanitarian and moral bases, which do not discriminate between the great powers and the small powers."

Badran wished Iraq further strength, power and glory and the Iraqi leader every success in serving the causes of the Arab Nation.

(Continued on page 5)

King voices support for Kohl's reunification effort

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday voiced support for West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's efforts to reunify the two Germanys and wished Kohl all possible success for this unity. It was the first formal Jordanian statement on efforts for German reunification and

came in a cable the King sent to Chancellor Kohl congratulating him on his 50th birthday. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King wished the West German leader happiness and good health and expressed hope that Jordanian-West German relations would be further enhanced.

ACC foreign ministers meet in Amman today

AMMAN (J.T.) — The foreign ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) will meet in Amman today to discuss a host of issues, including the recent threats to Iraq, the U.S. Senate resolution acknowledging Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, and Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine. Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem said Tuesday.

In a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Marwan said the meeting would also discuss the ongoing Israeli threats to Jordan and re-

ferred to the recent official Israeli statements, which consider any inter-Arab coordination constitutes a threat to the Israeli security."

ACC Secretary-General Hilmi Nammar said the meeting would cover regional and world developments including British-Iraqi relations in light of what he called an anti-Iraq campaign being waged by London.

The ACC, formed last year by Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen, tries to coordinate foreign policy as well as economic policy.

Geagea throws his weight behind Hrawi

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanese warlord Samir Geagea gave his allegiance to the country's president on Tuesday in a bid for support in his war for the Christian enclave.

Geagea, whose Lebanese Forces (LF) militia has been fighting forces loyal to renegade General Michel Aoun for two months, implicitly accepted an Arab-sponsored peace pact to end Lebanon's almost 15 years of civil war.

The solution in Lebanon is by recognising President Elias Hrawi as president of the republic and considering the Taif agreement an introduction to that settlement," Geagea said in an interview with a Labour-government.

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The importance of the agreement is that Aoun, which had been wavering in its support for Peres, formally agreed to join a Labour-government.

Peres was assigned by President Chaim Herzog to compose a bill formalising procedures for a republic to secede from the Soviet Union as leaders in Lithuania and Moscow tried to soften their dispute over the Baltic republic's independence declaration.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's top deputy spoke of "friendly ties" with Lithuania and said the Kremlin does not question its right to secede — as long as the Baltic republic follows proper constitutional procedures.

The comments by Anatoly I. Lukyanov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet parliament, came as Lithuanian leaders sought a compromise in their three-week-old confrontation with the Kremlin.

Analysts and Christian politicians said Geagea's remarks were an implicit appeal to Hrawi to back him against Aoun, whose troops

stand little chance of defeating alone.

(Continued on page 5)

Moscow, Lithuania seek to soften dispute; secession law approved

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Lawmakers Tuesday endorsed a bill formalising procedures for a republic to secede from the Soviet Union as leaders in Lithuania and Moscow tried to soften their dispute over the Baltic republic's independence declaration.

Despite the conciliatory tone between leaders on both sides, the Soviet government on Tuesday closed Lithuania's border with Poland, the Polish Foreign Ministry said. The closed crossing is Lithuania's only border that does not adjoin Soviet territory.

Soviet officials informed their counterparts at the Polish border that the crossing from the Polish town of Ogdoniki to the Lithuanian town of Lazdijai was "temporarily" closed at 9 a.m. (0700 GMT), the Polish news agency PAP said.

Meanwhile, legislators in the Baltic Republic of Estonia, which is taking a more cautious approach to independence, passed a resolution in support of Lithuania and urged Gorbachev's demands that they renounce their independence.

The delegation said it was flexible about the process leading to independence. Deputy Prime Minister Romualdas Ozolas told reporters at Moscow's railway station: "We can compromise on anything but not the basic thing — our independence."

But the Council of Nationalities overwhelmingly approved a law on secession which would insist on exactly the sort of pre-independence conditions the Lithuanians reject.

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The SPD's startling move reflected the switchback ride East German politics has been following since the hardline Communists, who had ruled for 40 years, were overthrown last year.

The leadership of the SPD, which took about 20 per cent of the vote, had fought shy of formal negotiations because the CDU insisted on having its alliance partner, the right-wing German Social Union (DSU), in the coalition.

Despite the volte-face, SPD leaders told a news conference the talks would not be an easy ride for the conservatives.

The party would claim several cabinet posts, including foreign and internal affairs, labour and education.

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Middle East News

Iraqi reprisal threat draws Arab admiration

AMMAN (R) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's threat that if attacked he would wipe out half of Israel with chemical weapons won Arab admiration and approval Tuesday.

"We fully understand the importance of protecting the integrity of Iraq and defending its national interest," said an official Jordanian source, who asked not to be named.

"The president's speech was a measured reaction to the threats Iraq is feeling from many parts of the world," he said. "It's a message that you can't hit Iraq without a reaction."

Iraq's arch-Arab foe Syria kept silent on the Iraqi president's fiery speech Monday.

But political analysts in Amman said Hussein had struck a resounding chord among Arabs who felt humiliated by Israel's military strength, frustrated at Western support for the Jewish state and angry at the wave of Israel-bound Soviet Jewish migrants.

"The Arabs feel the whole world is against them," said Mustafa Hamarneh, a history professor at Jordan University, describing campus reaction to the Iraqi leader's speech.

Hussein's defiant remarks made the top headlines in televi-

sion and radio news bulletins and newspapers around the Arab World.

Gulf newspapers supported his stand.

The semi-official United Arab Emirates newspaper Al Ittihad attacked the U.S. and its Western allies for condemning Iraq's chemical weapons threat.

"The U.S. and Israeli reactions to the Iraqi president's statements clearly show the injustice suffered by the Arab nation at the hands of the United States in particular and the West in general."

"If Israel acquires a nuclear, or non-nuclear weapons arsenal, America naturally remains silent because it supplies Israel with the most sophisticated arms," Al Ittihad said.

"But when Arab countries try to obtain a weapon to ensure their right of self-defence, this opens the doors to a deluge of American and Western provocative statements and threats to attack that country," it said.

"The Iraqi president's announcement to destroy half of

Israel came at the right time," Bahrain's Akhbar Al Khaleej daily said.

"Arab acquisition of chemical weapons and other missiles capable of reaching Tel Aviv marks a big change in the Arab-Israeli power balance... Iraq's statement is a declaration of Arab capability to confront Israel and its aggression."

A Palestine Liberation Organisation leader praised what he called Hussein's courage and the Iraqi army's readiness to defend itself and any Arab country from possible aggression.

"We hail President Hussein for his great speech which reflects his confidence in himself and in the strength of the Iraqi army on which he still pin great hope for liberating Palestine," Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh, speaker of the Palestine National Council, told Reuters.

"They see the anti-Arab, anti-Muslim and anti-Palestinian events of recent months. They feel enough is enough and Saddam gave their morale a boost. Even anti-Baathists are saying Saddam is an Arab leader with vision," he said.

Jordan, a close ally of Baghdad, appears to see an Iraqi military umbrella as a deterrent to Israeli rightwingers who favour

mass expulsion of West Bank Palestinians into Jordan.

Jordan television gave prominent coverage to Hussein's speech in which he said Iraq had binary chemical weapons and would use them to retaliate for any Israeli attack.

"The Arabs need someone to say how they can defend themselves," the Jordanian official source said. "Coming from a leader who has won a war it has credibility and must be taken seriously. The West must realize it can't push Iraq around."

"Perhaps Saddam should not have boasted about his chemical weapons and just kept them for retaliation — but I welcome any military power that can stop Israel or make Soviet Jews think twice before coming to Israel," the official said.

The Arabs might have disregarded similar threats by Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi, but had respect for Iraq, he added.

"Saddam has military, oil and brain power. Arabs are ready for a power that can respond to Israel in an era of total collapse, especially after events in Eastern Europe," he said.

Jordan and Iraq belong with Egypt and North Yemen to the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), a mainly economic

alliance formed last year. ACC foreign ministers plan to meet in Amman this week to discuss what they call Britain's anti-Iraq campaign.

Kamel Abu Jaber, a political science professor at Jordan University, said he hoped Hussein's speech would not give Israel a pretext for an attack on Iraq or Jordan.

"Iraq is reacting to the storm against it in the Western media... and cautioning Israel not to start anything," he said, recalling Israel's 1981 raid on Iraq's Osirak nuclear reactor.

Abu Jaber said Israel, not the Arabs, had introduced ballistic missiles and nuclear, chemical and biological weapons into the Middle East and had rejected all Arab peace overtures.

"The Arabs and the Palestinians are flat on their bellies begging people to persuade Syria to sit down and talk peace," he said. "Our skies are open to Israeli warplanes. How are we going to defend ourselves? Are we supposed to go to Australia?"

"Iraq's president talks with Europe in the only language which it recognises... force," Qatar's Al Sharq newspaper said.

"Hussein's word was a warning for all against any aggression especially Israel," Kuwait's Al

Qabas daily said.

"This warning is a clear sign of Iraq's intention and reiterates Iraq will not compromise its security or principles."

"The tension in the region has risen to a boiling point... in hours or days," Kuwait's Al Rai Al Aam said.

"A preemptive Israel attack is a firm and continuous policy... This requires a quick Arab move to confront with all its resources the Israeli road towards the European Union," it said.

If President Hussein's words would deter Israel from carrying out evil acts, then it was necessary, Israel might recognise that its future with the Arabs would only be through peace," the English-language Qatari Gulf Times said.

Iran calls chemical weapons a threat

NICOSIA (R) — A top Iranian official said Tuesday Iraq's possession of sophisticated chemical weapons posed a threat to Iran and complicated a peaceful solution to the Gulf war.

Ahmad Azizi, head of the Iranian delegation to a meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Nicosia, told Reuters that Iran would take measures to defend itself.

No estimate was available of the number of foreigners still living in South Lebanon.

The Lebanese Communist Party claimed responsibility for Robinson's assassination.

The Lebanese National Resistance Front, which groups the Communist Party and 11 other groups, threatened in a statement issued a day after Robinson's assassination that "all those who try to establish enemy settlements in our land will be liquidated."

The Israelis have controlled the 10-to-16-kilometre deep enclave since they withdrew the bulk of their invading army from South Lebanon in the summer of 1985.

The zone, which extends from the Mediterranean coast in the west to the foothills of Mount

Lebanese government wants foreigners out of SLA-controlled zone

BEIRUT (AP) — The government of Syrian-backed President Elias Hrawi has asked U.N. peacekeepers to expel foreigners living illegally in the Israeli-controlled sector of South Lebanon, it was reported Tuesday.

The state-run National News Agency said the director of the Foreign Ministry's International Affairs Department, Ahmad Ibrahim, made the request Monday to a delegation from the command of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

The dispatch said a two-man delegation from UNIFIL's command visited Ibrahim at his office in Muslim west Beirut Monday. It did not disclose the identities of the two delegates.

Ibrahim made the request a week after three masked gunmen shot and killed American Christian missionary William Robinson at his home in the southern village of Rashaya Foukhar after he was accused of trying to set up an Israeli settlement.

Robinson was living in Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" in South Lebanon. There were conflicting reports over whether he had a residence permit from Lebanese authorities.

Rashaya Foukhar is 13 kilometers northeast of the Israeli border, inside the security zone.

Robinson, 56, a former U.S. Marine from Chicago, was buried Thursday in the Protestant cemetery in the town of Rashaya.

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Group demands return of Arab hero's skeleton

BEIRUT (AP) — An underground group threatened in a statement published Tuesday to attack French targets unless the body of an Arab who assassinated a French revolutionary hero nearly 190 years ago is returned to the Arabs.

The threat came in a handwritten Arabic statement from the "Revolutionary Action Organisation, the Arab Resistance Front — the Martyr Suleiman Al Halabi Unit" published by several Beirut dailies.

Al-Halabi stabbed to death Gen. Jean-Baptiste Kleber, a hero of the French revolution, as the general stood on a balcony in Cairo on June 14, 1800. The assassin's skeleton is at a museum in Paris.

There was no immediate word from French authorities on whether security was tightened at the Jardin des Plantes, a well-known natural history museum in Paris.

The same group last week claimed responsibility for shooting a Polish diplomat and his wife.

"We warn the French government and give it a one-month period as of today (Monday) to return the remains of Martyr Suleiman Al Halabi to any Arab country," the statement said.

"It is essential to warn the French government before we take any action against French interests," said the 40-word statement without elaboration.

The statement did not give any information about Suleiman Al Halabi or say whether it meant the man who assassinated Napoleon Bonaparte's General Kleber in Cairo.

According to various Arab and French historical accounts, Halabi, a Syrian, was captured by French troops and executed in Cairo.

The diplomat is still recuperating at the American University Hospital in west Beirut from surgery to remove three bullets from his chest.

No change in plight of hostages — Iran

NICOSIA (R) — Demands by kidnappers of Western hostages in Lebanon should be met before any release of the captives, an influential Iranian member of parliament said Tuesday.

"They (kidnappers) have certain conditions which have to be met before the hostages can be released," said Ahmad Azizi, leading the Iranian delegation to an Inter-Parliamentary Union meeting in Cyprus.

He told Reuters prospects for the 17 Western hostages in Leba-

non, including eight Americans, had not improved despite a call in March by the pro-government Tehran Times for their unconditional release.

Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said in March the issue was moving towards a solution and a Foreign Ministry official said the captives could be freed by the end of this year.

"I see no change in the situation. It remains the same as before," Azizi said.

Israel denies rush to build settlements

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel, rebuffing U.S. criticism, denied Tuesday it was racing to erect new Jewish settlements on occupied Arab lands.

"We are not rushing now to build new settlements. We are not going to exploit the situation," Yossi Ahimeir, chief of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's staff, told Reuters.

The U.S. State Department attacked Shamir Monday over reports he planned to speed up settlement now that the Labour Party had quit his government over his failure to open peace talks with Palestinians.

Washington views as "an obstacle to peace" the 70,000 Jews living among the 1.75 million Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, occupied since the 1967 Middle East War.

"It's disturbing that an Israeli leadership which was unable to take forward on peace seems ready to move forward on new settlements," the State Department said Monday.

Labor party member Avraham Burg Sunday accused Shamir, the rightist Likud Party leader, of planning to speed up five settlements.

Burg said Sunday that Shamir caused a storm in January by saying a "big Israel" was needed for an expected influx of 750,000 Soviet Jews over six years. Critics said he meant Israel and the occupied Arab lands.

Meanwhile a new opinion poll showed most Israelis preferred Rabin for their next prime minister rather than Shamir or Labour Party leader Shimon Peres, who is trying to form a coalition.

It also controls the Finance Ministry vacated by Labour, which had withheld support for lack of funds.

The broad coalition govern-

ment crumbled last month over Shamir's refusal to accept U.S. proposals for the first-ever Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

Burg said Sunday that Shamir set the process of increased settlement in motion after assuming the job of former Labour Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

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Kuwait groups reject constitutional change

CAIRO (R) — Professional associations, students and trades unions have hacked a pro-democracy movement in Kuwait, urging the emir not to amend the constitution before parliament was restored, activists said Tuesday.

The government has recently said that most Kuwaitis favoured a return to a parliamentary system but under new rules that would prevent a repetition of practices it saw as divisive by the previous parliament dissolved in 1986.

The Defence Ministry in Paris said the measures were taken "in agreement with Chadian authorities" and conformed with the "dissuasive and defensive" guidelines of French intervention in its former African colony.

France last week reinforced its 100-man detachment in eastern Chad with a company of 146 paratroopers, a transport aircraft and a second military surgical unit.

The Defence Ministry in Paris said the measures were taken "in agreement with Chadian authorities" and conformed with the "dissuasive and defensive" guidelines of French intervention in its former African colony.

Leaders of the pro-democracy movement fear the government might call elections under new laws that would ensure a toothless parliament is elected.

"The 1962 constitution has become the cornerstone of modern Kuwait and an example aspired to by the peoples of the region for

its relative freedoms derived from Islamic teachings," a joint statement by Kuwait University's seven political student groups said Saturday.

One activist said 13 professional associations sent a separate petition to the Emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, Monday calling for respect of the 1962 constitution.

The statement was signed by members of the associations of lawyers, academics, civil servants, university teachers, the labour union and other societies.

It said the societies were launching a "public campaign to enlighten citizens about the importance of retaining the 1962 constitution and preventing attempts to violate it."

The statement also called for the lifting of censorship. It was not published in Kuwaiti news-

papers.

The emir dissolved the last parliament at the height of the Iran-Iraq war, citing a foreign conspiracy to destroy Kuwait.

Earlier this month 31 former deputies, who had led the pro-democracy campaign since late last year, signed a statement addressed to the emir opposing possible constitutional changes.

The former deputies insist only an elected parliament can amend the constitution.

They accepted an offer by Sheikh Jaber in January to halt public rallies and open a dialogue with the government on the future or democracy.

But the societies, like the deputies, criticised the dialogue and said it needed "freedom of expression and not imposed censorship."

The statement did not give any information about Suleiman Al Halabi or say whether it meant the man who assassinated Napoleon Bonaparte's General Kleber in Cairo.

According to various Arab and French historical accounts, Halabi, a Syrian, was captured by French troops and executed in Cairo.

The diplomat is still recuperating at the American University Hospital in west Beirut from surgery to remove three bullets from his chest.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

CHURCHES

Borders on alert for missing
Qasr Al Hallabat antiquity

Millennium-old mosaic stolen

AMMAN (Agencies) — Thieves have stolen an early Islamic mosaic floor from one of Jordan's desert castles and the Ministry of Tourism has offered a handsome reward to anyone providing information that could lead to its recovery.

A statement by the Ministry of Tourism Tuesday said that the thieves took 30 square metres of mosaic, representing the "tree of life" from Qasr Al Hallabat and the theft must have occurred last Sunday during the rainstorm in Jordan.

The mosaic floor, perhaps 1,200 years old shows a variety of animal, human, floral and geometric motifs dating back to the Umayyad era in the first half of the eighth century AD.

Minister of Tourism Abdul Karim Al Kababti was quoted as saying that an alert went out to border points after the theft was discovered Monday.

"The mosaic floor was part of the nation's cultural and historic wealth and it is hoped that the public can provide information that would lead to the recovery of the stolen property or to the identification of those irresponsible people who stole the mosaic floor," the ministry statement added.

Qasr Al Hallabat is the most ruined of all the big desert castles in Jordan. Located 25 kilometres north east of Zarqa, about an hour's drive from Amman, the castle was first the site of an early second century AD Roman fort or watch tower that helped protect the western hills and plains of modern Jordan against attacks from the east.

Inscriptions in the castle show that it was rebuilt as a major installation during the



A filephoto of the stolen mosaic

reign of the Roman emperor Caracalla, around 212-215 AD. It was refurbished once again in the Byzantine period and finally reached its height as an Umayyad complex in the centuries 7 and 8 AD. The Umayyad patrons of the castle decorated it with elaborate

mosaics and frescoes.

Commenting on the theft, president of Jordan's Friends of Archaeology group, Rami Khouri, said the mosaic which lay in a now roofless room, was important mainly for scholars interested in evidence of cultural continuity between late

Byzantine and early Islamic art.

"This shows why Jordan should give a higher priority to its antiquities," Khouri said. "The government must give the antiquities department the money and the means to protect such sites," Khouri added.

Rice deal case goes to court; witness testimonies delayed

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The first case involving alleged official corruption has gone to court but the first hearing was postponed because of non-availability of witnesses, legal sources said Tuesday.

The source said the criminal court of Amman Monday postponed hearing the case of former Minister of Supply Undersecretary Abdulla Hawamdeh and a local company for alleged mismanagement and corruption because witnesses either did not turn up or were too late for the session, prompting the panel of two judges, Mohammad Samed Al Rakad and Fuad Sweidan, to postpone the hearing until next Monday.

No witnesses testified at the

session, but they include Ministry of Supply staff and private merchants. "It is expected that around 20 witnesses will testify in all," said another source. All sources spoke to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity.

Hawamdeh and his lawyers,

who include Saleh Jarondi, Khalil Arar and Hisham Al Tal, and the company represented by Ibrahim Bakr will base their defense on the argument that the treasury did not suffer any losses in the rice deal since "prices were properly readjusted after the tender was awarded and the necessary allocation was made," said one of the sources. "The defendants will try to prove that the original tender was not pampered with," the source said.

Hawamdeh, released on JD 250,000 bail last month, and the National Company for Development and Finance, were formally charged, the sources said. Both parties denied the charges.

Hawamdeh, who retired from service last year, is charged with article 175 of the criminal code — abusing an official position for profit-seeking, and with 80/2, a complementary article. The company is charged as an accessory.

More potash exports expected for 1990

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Potash Company (APC) has signed contracts to sell its production of potash from now until the end of September mostly to Asian countries, according to a company statement here Tuesday.

The statement said that the company recently signed agreements with India, Malaysia, Taiwan, South Korea and China to sell them additional quantities of potash during 1990.

The deals were concluded during a tour of these countries by a company team led by APC managing director Ali Ensour.

The total amount of potash to be sold according to these deals, the statement said, is worth \$75 million.

APC is jointly owned by Jordan and three Arab countries in addition to the Arab Mining Company and the Islamic Development Bank.

His tour came in the wake of an announcement here that APC had signed contracts with a major investment company to conduct detailed feasibility studies on expanding the company's production capacity.

APC produced 1.25 million tonnes of potash in 1989 and plans to produce 1.35 million tonnes this year and 2.25 million tonnes on an annual basis starting with 1990.

According to Eosoor the Minerals and Metals Trading Company of India had recently signed a contract with APC to import 260,000 tonnes of potash which will be shipped over the coming five months to earn the country some \$25 million.

APC is jointly owned by Jordan and three Arab countries in addition to the Arab Mining Company and the Islamic Development Bank.

Organ donations — the unseen scene

By Saeda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Only five cases of cornea donations by Jordanians have taken place in Jordan in the past ten years. Contribution of body organs has remained a taboo in Jordanian traditions and it was not until His Majesty King Hussein recently raised the issue that the media, along with all societies concerned, brought out the subject into the open, and many people have signed up as organ donors after death.

But, there seems to be very little legality to such undertakings, and too little coordination among the various parties involved to follow up the matter.

In the past few weeks or so, the case of an eight-year-old has become the focus of attention of the local press, the Jordan Television and the radio simply because King Hussein took a particular interest in his case, and contributed to send him to Germany to undergo the operation.

Until the case surfaced, the issue of organ donations had only assumed peripheral interest in Jordan, except perhaps for occasional heart and kidney transplants, and "the Kingdom's needy have always relied on foreign sources (Denmark is one) for human organs," according to Ibrahim Ayesh, head of the ophthalmology department in the Al Hussein Medical Centre.

Since 1979 until now, "there have been only five operations of cornea donated by Jordanians," affirms Nafees Rasheed Khader, head of the Eye Bank in Jordan, "while more than 300 operations have taken place relying on imports of corneas."

The new found enthusiasm apparently began when the father of the eight-year-old child, Jaafar Issam Al Momani, told the call-in live programme at the radio station about his son's dire need of cornea. Jaafar had been suffering for five years from weakness in one eye and the absence of vision in the other one.

More than thirteen operations had been tried on the boy, yet with no effect. He was on the edge of losing his sight until King Hussein adopted the case.



Eight-year-old Jaafar Al Momani and his doctor Butros Tawil and family members.



Radio Jordan publicised the case through its local and foreign transmissions, and several Jordanian listeners in West Germany stepped forward with a helping hand.

A quick response came from the plastic surgeon, Dr. Butros Al Tawil, and his wife Rihama, guaranteeing to provide Jaafar with all help and affection needed. A very kind gesture also came from Dr. H. Busse from Munster hospital in Germany with an offer to provide the cornea needed free of charge. The Christian churches in Linge offered DM 1,300 towards the cost of the operation.

Dr. Butros published an advertisement in an Arabic newspaper in Germany to collect donations from Arab expatriates for Jaafar, but only DM 20 were received after 20 days of successive advertisements.

Hundreds waiting

In Jordan, there are hundreds of 'Jaafars' on the waiting list in the Al Hussein Medical Centre and the Jordan University Hospital, waiting for cornea donations, "and still people are so much preoccupied with Jaafar's case, reporting that he had returned safely from Germany after the operation, forgetting that other people need money and cornea

donations other than Jaafar," said a leading social worker who refused to be identified.

The consensus that emerged in Jordan Times' interview with many doctors and social workers is that there is a pervading belief among the people that donating human organs is something to be avoided since religious beliefs suggest that it may affect the deceased person.

According to Mohammad Khalil, a schoolteacher, "the best way to honour the deceased person is to bury him without extracting his organs or disintegrating his body."

Experts believe that this misguided belief, widely shared by many, is an area that should be addressed in a comprehensive manner. A pamphlet issued by the Friends of the Jordanian Eye Bank Society, which includes several leading religious scholars, affirms that Islam permits organ donations. It cites Islamic hadiths to support the argument and points out that organ donations could be considered as charity.

In any event, there has been a dramatic rise in offers of organ donations after Jaafar's case hit the headlines in February. "Five cases in eleven years have risen to hundreds and thousands in the past few weeks," according to Ibrahim Ayesh, public relations director of the National Medical Institution and a member of the Eye Bank.

First of all, the donation cards signed by potential donors cannot be considered legal, according to Ayesh Hijazi, public relations director of the National Medical Institution and a member of the Eye Bank.

"These cards that the donors fill are not approved officially; we can never know when or if the donor is deceased or not.

Officially, there has to be a certain coordination between the Eye Bank and all other societies concerned and the Department of Civil Status," he said.

The problem also partially owes its origins to the existence of separate societies dealing with donations and transplants of human organs. For example, if someone wants to donate all his or her organs, he or she has to deal with three different organisations: The Eye Bank, the Friends of the Kidney Society and the Farah Heart Centre. But the process does not end there; when the donor dies, his or her family has to get in touch with all the organisations concerned in order to perform the necessary extractions; a process which does not allow for any wasted time.

"It is really important that all the institutions unify and form one institution that is responsible for everything," Hijazi suggests. "Once such an organisation is set up, then in cooperation with the Civil Status Department, we could guarantee that all the process will be legal and profitable, and no one, not even the parents, can impede such a process or even protest," he added.

In another development, Arabyat met Tuesday with Minister of Supply Nabil Abul Huda to review matters related to poultry meat and to ensure sufficient supplies of poultry for Jordan.

Minister explains price hike

AMMAN (J.T.) — The high price of vegetables and fruits in Jordanian markets is partly due to a monopoly exercised by a group of merchants, but prices will finally stabilise in two weeks time, Minister of Agriculture Suleiman Arabyat said in a statement Tuesday.

The minister was commenting on public protests at the high prices of some produce and the absence of some items.

He said that another reason for the high prices and the lack of sufficient amounts is due to the current transitional period between agricultural cycles when limited quantities of good quality vegetables and fruits reach the market.

"In addition, many types of crops continue to be exported under previously agreed deals. These exports can not be stopped since they earn the Kingdom badly needed foreign currency," the minister said.

Arabyat said that due to arrangements with the Ministry of Supply 42 tonnes of dried onions have been lately imported to meet the shortage on the local markets. "Other consignments of onions, part of which come from the West Bank, were put on the market over the last few days," he said.

In another development, Arabyat met Tuesday with Minister of Supply Nabil Abul Huda to review matters related to poultry meat and to ensure sufficient supplies of poultry for Jordan.

Police nab suspect in Jabal Amman murder

AMMAN (Petra) — Police Tuesday announced the capture of a 25-year-old man identified only as RMA who had murdered a 67-year-old woman in the Fifth Circle area of Jabal Amman last month.

A Public Security Department (PSD) statement said that the man had strangled the victim with a rope which was found around her neck. The murder occurred on March 28, according to the

statement.

The statement did not reveal the motives behind the murder, but sources available to the Jordan Times said that the man who used to work as a guard at a foreign ambassador's residence in Amman got away with a large sum of money after killing the woman, identified by the police only as SJ.

The victim was alone in the house at the time of the murder.

WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An exhibition by seven Iraqi artists at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation (10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
- ★ Art exhibition by Ahmad Nawash at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Man and Land" by Jordanian artist Khalil Ghawamneh at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibitions of paintings and photos that depict the development of the Jordanian Armed Forces at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST).
- ★ Exhibition entitled "The Productive Families" displaying embroidery, ceramics, woolen clothes and foodstuffs at Al Qudsia Community College.
- ★ The Islamic book exhibition which includes books on Islam, literature, psychology, sociology, education, philosophy, law and history at Yarmouk University.

THEATRE

- ★ Arabic children's play entitled "Tales from My Grandmother's Chest" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 10:00 a.m.

LECTURE

- ★ Lecture, in Arabic, entitled "Islam and the influence of the Jewish immigration in the coming future" by deputy Abdil Muneem Abu Zant at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:30 p.m.

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Crying wolf won't work

IRAQ IS and has been the victim of one long chain of conspiracies that date back to the point in time when it started to show signs of real strength and genuine independence. Under its current leadership, the country transformed itself into a regional power to reckon with, and this of course does not please many powers, especially Israel. Thus began the chorus of attacks on Iraq in a bid to frustrate its aim to remain free from superpower tutelage.

The sneak Israeli attack on Iraq's nuclear facility in 1981 and the subsequent eruption of an eight-year quagmire of fire and destruction between Iran and Iraq are but part and parcel of this continuous grand design on Iraq in an effort to bleed it to death before it has sufficient time to stand fully on its feet. The recent well-orchestrated smear attacks on Iraq for allegedly seeking to acquire triggering devices for nuclear bombs have to be viewed in the context of this determination to prevent Iraq from standing tall in regional power politics. The enemies of the Arab World have gotten used to Arab countries accepting their whims and dictates and whenever any Arab state attempts to stand up to them, conspiracies of all sorts and kinds are unleashed against them. For all intents and purposes, therefore, the sinister designs on Iraq, especially from Tel Aviv, are also directed against the entire Arab Nation and aim to discredit and undermine the Arab World from the ocean to the Gulf. That is why the Arab countries are called upon to stand by Iraq in its present crisis and make it known to all players in this continuing conspiracy against Iraq that any attack on Iraq of whatever form or shape will be construed as an attack on the Arab World and will be met with collective Arab will and determination. The days when the Arab countries are left at the mercy of Israel and its arsenal of weapons are over for ever. If Israel and all those powers that stand behind it are genuinely concerned about preventing a conflagration in the Middle East in which mass destructive weapons are projected to be used, all they have to do is to promote a negotiated peace between the two sides on honourable and legitimate grounds in the context of an international conference. Otherwise, Israel and its allies would be flirting with danger the kind and scale of which they have not yet even contemplated. Instead of crying wolf every time an Arab country tries to stand on its feet and for its rights and progress, the concerned parties would be better advised to convince Israel, first, to sign and ratify the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and second, to accept the convening of an international conference to settle the broader Arab-Israeli conflicts once and for all.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Tuesday says that the war option is not restricted to the enemies of the Arab Nation alone, but is the right of all Arabs when their security and their future is in danger. Mahmoud Al Rimawi says that Iraq has been threatened by war from Israel and it was only fair to say that Baghdad has issued a retaliatory threat to launch a war on Israel should it decide to launch an adventure on Iraqi territory. The writer says that the Israeli leaders who are now involved in reviewing the Iraqi president's statement on television about Iraq's readiness to launch a reprisal, should realise that the only alternative to peace is war, and that they are invited to choose between the two. Rimawi recalls that the Israelis launched a raid on the Iraqi reactor in 1981, and says that the aggression was launched when Iraq was involved in a war with Iran and that the raid was unprovoked. This raid has aroused the Iraqi people's wrath because it proved to them that as the Iranians were trying to occupy Arab land, they found allies in Israel and the West who tried to help Iran achieve its goals, the writer adds. He says that the Iraqis have on more than one occasion made it clear that the circumstances under which Israel launched the raid can never recur, and that no one can from now on launch an act of aggression and get away with it. The writer says that the enemies of the Arab Nation should heed the Iraqi leaders' warning and refrain from any adventure.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's statement to the nation on Monday was tantamount to a reply by the Arab Nation to the enemies defiance in the arrogance of the Israeli leaders and their Western allies, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday. The paper said that the president chose the right moment to reply to the threats levelled against the Arab Nation by its enemies. The Israelis and their allies had imagined that Iraq would be weak after the eight-year old war and would not be able to meet the new challenge, the paper noted. It said that Zionism had thought that Baghdad would succumb to blackmail and would accept Israeli terms and conditions. The Israelis and their allies had not thought that Iraq is now far stronger than at any time in the past despite the war with Iran, and had thought would easily play with fire and impose their siege and intimidation on Baghdad, the paper continued. Iraq is keen on achieving peace; but would not succumb to blackmail and would not accept any threats and intimidations, the paper added.

Al Dustour daily said Tuesday that Saddam Hussein's address on television Monday awakened the Arab masses longing for a stand marked by pride, and his reply to the challenge posed by Israel rekindled hopes that the Arab Nation can and should do something in reply to the threats of aggression on the Arab Nation. The paper said that the speech quenched the thirst of the Arab masses who are fed up with mere statements reflecting "unanimous Arab agreements" which are worth nothing because they are not implemented in the least. The paper said that Saddam Hussein's open and candid reply to the Israelis is bound to end the enemy's disregard to the Arab Nation and bound to take the Arab World into a new stage in which it will have to repel aggression, not in word but in deeds.

History of American administration ambiguity over Jerusalem status

By Donald Neff

THERE is a sense of the epic about the clash developing between the United States and Israel, between George Bush and Yitzhak Shamir, over the status of Jerusalem. The long fingers of history touch the controversy is foreboding ways.

Both Bush and Shamir are not only well versed in the issue but they bring passions to it beyond the usual in disagreements between the two countries. Thus when the President of the United States deliberately equated East (Arab) Jerusalem with territory occupied by Israel in his news conference March 3, he struck at the heart of the most sensitive issue dividing the two countries. Nor could he have been surprised when Shamir responded defiantly with his statement that Jerusalem "is part of Israel and it will never be divided again."

What provoked Bush into his bold assertion about Jerusalem was his suspicion that Shamir was trying to hoodwink him about the placement of Jewish Soviet immigrants pouring into Israel, Bush, as U.N. ambassador in 1971, has presided over the only time the U.S. supported a resolution condemning Israel's claim to Jerusalem, so he was well aware of its status in the world community as occupied territory. It is the one issue in the Middle East tangle that Bush has demonstrated to care deeply about, characterising in his press conference his opposition to settlements as "our strongly held view."

The spark that ignited the outburst by the usually cautious Bush was a recent CIA report informing him Israel's claim that less than one per cent of the Soviet immigrants were being settled in the occupied territories was only partly true, covering only the West Bank. The fact was the report pointed out, another ten per cent were being herded into settlements established by Israel since 1967 in East Jerusalem on land originally belonging to Palestinians.

Bush was so angered by the CIA report that he had it before him when he held an unpleasant telephone conversation with Shamir on February 22, Shamir had called to soothe Bush's concerns about the residency of the Soviets and assured the president that reports about putting them in settlements were not true. When Bush retorted by quoting from the CIA report, Shamir sputtered and insisted that Jerusalem didn't count since it

was Israeli territory. Bush took offence at that claim and the telephone call ended in mutual acrimony. After hanging up Bush reportedly turned to his aides and growled that Shamir must take him for a fool.

A little more than a week later Bush pointedly mentioned East Jerusalem when he referred to Israel's occupied territories. In Bush's words: "My position is that the foreign policy of the United States says we do not believe there should be new settlements in the West Bank or in East Jerusalem."

Since then the uproar has been gathering passion and both sides have refused to back down, although the Bush administration seems to be scuttling to partial refuge by insisting that there has been no change in U.S. policy. This declaration was in itself something of an equivocation since U.S. policy on Jerusalem over the years has been anything but clear. It has zigged and zagged, depending on the occupant of the White House and the state of relations with Israel. This has not been the case with Israeli policy. Its policy has been firm, unfriendly and aggressive in its claim to Jerusalem as its "eternal" capital.

Israeli determination

As far back as 1948 that claim had produced bloodshed. It was in support of Israel's claim to Jerusalem that in part motivated the assassination in 1948 of U.N. mediator Count Folke Bernadotte because he opposed such a claim. The extraordinary relevance of that act to today's burgeoning controversy is that the assassins of Bernadotte were members of the Stern Gang, the radical Jewish terrorist group, one of whose leaders is today the prime minister of Israel, Yitzhak Shamir.

Israel's other actions have been no less forceful about its policy. As early as mid-September 1948, in the middle of war — and when it was assumed by the world that Israel in accepting U.N. partition also accepted its designation of Jerusalem as an international city — Israel's Supreme Court was established in Jerusalem. On December 20, 1948, with combat still continuing, the Israeli cabinet officially decided to move "government institutions" to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv. Israel's parliament held its first session in Jerusalem on February 14, 1949 and three days later Dr. Chaim Weizmann took his oath of office there as Israel's first president. At the time, Israel's

first leader, David Ben Gurion, announced that "Jerusalem is an inseparable part of Israel and her eternal capital." Privately he boasted to the U.S. ambassador, James G. McDonald: "It would take an army to get Jews out of Jerusalem; and the only army I see willing to occupy Jerusalem is Russia's."

When Israel finally achieved its long term goal of capturing all of Jerusalem in 1967, it immediately expanded dramatically the city limits by extending the boundaries northward nine miles and southward ten miles, increasing its size from twenty-seven square miles to sixty-seven. Areas densely

populated by Palestinians were omitted while the unpopulated Palestinian fields abutting Arab villages were incorporated into Jerusalem, thus assuring a continuing Jewish majority in the newly enlarged city. The population in 1947 when the U.N. partitioned Palestine was about 100,000 Arabs and 105,000 Jews. Today it is around 140,000 Arabs and about 350,000 Jews, including 120,000 Jews living on expropriated Arab territory in an encircling series of concrete complexes that look more like modern fortresses than apartment buildings.

Washington's conflicting attitudes

Jerusalem obviously is not some side issue, nor is it a domestic political issue in Israel; every government has exerted itself to secure Jerusalem. It is the core of the dispute between the U.S. and Israel, symbolically representing how far the U.S. is willing to go in supporting Israel's claims to Palestinian territory. From the beginning the U.S. attitude has been confused, supporting the 1947 Partition

Plan's declaration of Jerusalem as a "corpus separatum," an international city belonging to neither Arab nor Jew, to opposition two years later to a General Assembly resolution that merely restated Jerusalem's status as an international city. This change in U.S. policy was explained at the time as not a retreat from principle but on the pragmatic ground "that it was unrealistic as it could not be implemented by the United Nations against the wishes of Israel and Jordan with the use of substantial forces," in the words of a state department memorandum.

After Israel's capture of all of Palestine in 1967, U.S. policy evolved under the pro-Israel Johnson administration into the weak formulation that, as White House Chief of Staff John Sununu reiterated it the other day, "the United States supports a united Jerusalem whose final status should be determined by negotiations." Such a formulation is ambiguous enough that it has allowed Washington over the years to argue from both sides of its mouth, claiming that it was not recognising Israel's claim to Jerusalem but also that it was not prejudging the matter.

No ambiguity in U.S. action

What has not been ambiguous, however, has been Washington's actions. It has repeatedly refused to support numerous U.N. resolutions condemning Israel's efforts to extend its rule to all of Jerusalem. Thus the U.S. abstained on such Security Council resolutions as numbers 252, 267, 271, 446, 452, and 476, all passed between 1968 and 1980 declaring void Israel's claim. Its actions in the General Assembly have been even more pro-Israel, usually involving a U.S. vote against the many resolutions voiding Israel's claim to Jerusalem. Not even when Israel definitely declared in 1980 the annexation of all Jerusalem as an official area into Israel did the U.S. join the Security Council's resolution (478) censuring Israel "in the strongest terms" for its claim to all of Jerusalem. The vote was 14 for and one abstention, the U.S.

However, indicative of how checkered has been U.S. policy, there was the one notable time when Washington did join the majority in the Security Council on the issue of Jerusalem. This was on 25 September 1971 when Resolution 298 deplored Israel's refusal to obey previous U.N. resolutions to refrain from changing the status of Jerusalem. In the Council's words, the resolution "confirms in the clearest possible terms that all legislative and administrative actions taken by Israel to change the status of the city of Jerusalem including expropriation of land and properties, transfer of populations and legislation aimed at the incorporation of the occupied section are totally invalid and cannot change that status."

By chance Bush was ambassador then. But there is little about that it was Secretary of State William Rogers who insisted on supporting the resolution as a way to pressure Israel into his futile efforts to find a comprehensive agreement.

This was at a time when Henry Kissinger was still only the national security adviser, before he convened to push Rogers from office and skewed U.S. policy totally to Israel's desires. The important point is that the exposure of Bush to this issue clearly impressed him on its importance and subtleties, and since then has obviously stayed with him.

Will the real U.S. policy please stand up

Jimmy Carter sought to use the same tactic in 1980 to get Israel to halt its insistent settlement policy, but he was deep in his desperate campaign for reelection and finally was forced to back down. On March 1, the Security Council unanimously passed Resolution 465 condemning Israel's settlements as illegal. U.S. Ambassador Donald F. McHenry added that "we regard settlements in the occupied territories as illegal under international law..." The uproar in the Jewish community and Israel was such that two days later Carter announced the U.S. vote had been a mistake and should have been an abstention. Who Israel formally annexed Jerusalem just five months before the presidential election, the weakened and humiliated president stood by passively and then lost the election anyway.

All this confusion about the real U.S. policy was made moot by Ronald Reagan who entered office declaring without any apparent indications of his words that "settlements are not illegal." As for Jerusalem, the issue never formally arose during his eight years in office. But there was little doubt that Reagan and his secretaries of state, Alexander Haig and George Shultz, were all so pro-Israel that they approved whatever Israel wanted to do in Jerusalem and anywhere else.

With such a background, Shamir, and Shamir, in particular, can be excused for being furious at Bush. From their view, they had long ago won the battle over Jerusalem with Washington. How else could they read the repeated abstentions in the U.N. the docile acceptance of Israel's settlements in the city, the acquiescence to formal annexation and, despite all this, the continuation of lavish U.S. aid?

Whether George Bush will now stand by his principles — as Jimmy Carter did not — is the intriguing question in a sorry story of diplomacy by "pragmatism." — Middle East International, London.

Le Pen comes in from the cold

By Nicholas Kotek
Reuter

NICE, France — By turning the immigration issue into a national obsession, France's figurehead of the far-right, Jean-Marie Le Pen, has achieved the first great objective of his chequered political career.

His National Front has succeeded in pushing race and immigration issues into every cafe and living-room, and dragging established parties reluctantly into a debate.

"I say out loud what most people think but dare not say," Le Pen said in 1983, the year before the front made its first breakthrough by polling 11 per cent in European elections.

Now the unsayable is uttered every day.

The front came of age in Nice this weekend, 18 years after le Pen and a handful of friends on the extreme right founded it.

Dismissed for years as a xenophobic demagogue, le Pen has advocated slashing unemployment by repatriating immigrants — mostly North Africans. His message has struck a chord with a growing number of French whites.

President Francois Mitterrand has predicted the le Pen phenomenon would die away, but the front has forced both the mainstream parties to toughen their language on immigration to stop a haemorrhage of voters.

Le Pen's passion for combative politics lost him an eye in a brawl with leftwingers at a campaign meeting way back in 1957, but his enthusiasm continued unabated. Born in the Brittany port la Trinité Sur Mer on June 20, 1928,

Le Pen became a paratrooper in the colonial army in Algeria and has been dogged by charges of torture sessions during fights with nationalist guerrillas in Algiers.

His political success in France began in 1983 town hall elections and European elections in 1984, when the front polled more than 10 per cent. Le Pen was returned to parliament in March 1986 at the head of a party with 35 seats.

He stood as a presidential candidate in 1988, but costly gaffes marred his career.

He is now facing prosecution

for anti-Semitic remarks which have also led the European parliament to lift his immunity.

His private life has been no less controversial. His estranged wife Pierrette posed nude with a mops in the French edition of Playboy magazine, apparently in response to an aside by le Pen that she ought to earn her living by housekeeping.

Mutt'n Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



Iraq's private sector investment up — ministry

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraqi businessmen invested nearly 1 billion dinars (\$3 billion) in projects since the government launched a privatisation programme in 1987, the trade ministry said Monday.

The director of the companies registration department said that more than 692 million dinars (about \$2.1 billion) was invested last year in agricultural, industrial and services projects.

The official, who was not named, said 767 new companies were set up in 1989 after the government eased restrictions to encourage the private sector to invest in the economy.

In 1988, 535 companies were established and about 215 million dinars (\$650 million) invested by the private sector, he said.

Most of the new projects were set up by shareholding companies especially to buy government-owned enterprises which were

sold off under the privatisation programme.

The announcement was apparently designed to refute Western assessments that President Saddam Hussein's efforts to loosen socialist constraints on the economy following the 1988 ceasefire in the war with Iran have failed to yield significant results.

The government in February unveiled a 24.4 billion-dinar (\$7.8 billion) budget, the first time it has announced budget figures in eight years.

Industrial development and boosting agricultural output are two of the government's main target areas.

Iraq ended with the war with a foreign debt estimated at \$60 to \$70 billion, about half of it owed to Arab countries that will likely be written off.

It has been rescheduling repayments to some of its major credit-

tors while seeking to attract investment to revitalise the economy and bankroll its ambitious post-war reconstruction drive.

Meanwhile, the Al Ittihad business weekly reported Monday that President Hussein has instructed the trade ministry to allow foreign companies' local agents to make deals with government departments and enterprises.

Al Ittihad said a presidential decree ordered that these organisations can sign contacts with local agents without the involvement of the ministry or other state agencies.

The government last year permitted foreign companies to have agents in Iraq or to open branches if they have business in the country.

The agents are empowered to make all kinds of trade transactions or commercial dealings with the Japanese currency, the figures show.

"There was a more intense effort at the beginning of the month when they were desperately trying to hold the line at 150 yen to the dollar," said Yoshiro Okabe, senior manager at Midland Bank. "They seemed ready to give up by month-end."

The dollar closed in Tokyo at 159.95 yen Monday against 158.50 in New York Friday, after hitting a three-year, three-month high of 160.35 earlier in the day.

On March 1, it closed at 149.7 yen.

Dealers said there were structural reasons for the yen's depreciation — the narrowing of Japan's trade and current account surpluses, the increase of direct foreign investments by Japanese firms, and the market's impression that Japan was unable to manage its

own economy.

"If we try to bring in the same methods in our agriculture, which is inflexible and pretty inert, we will above all reduce output and raise prices," he said.

Soviet consumers have become increasingly discontented over falling living standards, empty shops and longer queues that have accompanied Gorbachev's perestroika reforms.

But radicals argue that anything less than a radical transformation of the Soviet economy could lead to disaster.

Abalkin said the government's reform proposals would be presented to parliament in the near future.

The economic weekly *Communist* says the government had already prepared a package of 20 measures including price reform, foreign investment and free enterprise, creation of a broad market and new procurement prices for agricultural produce.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, April 3, 1990

Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell		
U.S. dollar	670.0	674.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	421.5 424.0
Pound Sterling	1096.6	1103.2	Dutch guilder	349.7 351.8
Deutschmark	393.9	396.3	Swiss franc	102.8 103.8
Swiss franc	446.3	449.0	Italian lira (for 100)	53.6 53.9
French franc	117.2	117.5	Belgian franc (for 10)	190.5 191.6

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1,630/010	U.S. dollars	Canadian dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.165/777	1.165/777	Deutschmarks
1.702/027	1.914/050	Dutch guilders	1.914/050
1.502/128	1.521/200	Swiss francs	1.521/200
35.12/20	5.715/7200	Belgian francs	5.715/7200
1250/1251	1250/1251	French francs	1250/1251
158.58/68	158.58/68	Italian lire	158.58/68
6,130/01430	6,130/01430	Japanese yen	6,130/01430
6,580/555	6,580/555	Swedish crowns	6,580/555
6,486/54915	6,486/54915	Norwegian crowns	6,486/54915
One ounce of gold	374.0/375.15	Danish crowns	374.0/375.15
		U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Australia's sharemarket staged a slight afternoon rally to close only marginally weaker on the back of firmer Tokyo stocks. The All-Ordinaries closed 1.7 points off at 1,505.4, recovering from a low of 1,499.8.

TOKYO — Trust funds and others searching for bargains among the remains of Monday's freefall lifted prices to a higher close in a seesaw day of moderate trading. The Nikkei Index surged 757.65 points, or 2.71 per cent, to 28,759.72.

HONG KONG — Hong Kong stocks climbed steadily throughout the day as bargain-hunters scrambled to pick up cheap stock. The Hang Seng Index ended 27.75 higher at 2,962.45.

SINGAPORE — Share prices ended slightly higher on selective buying and bargain hunting in response to a partial rebound in Tokyo's Nikkei Index. The Straits Times Index closed 6.73 points up at 1,555.92.

BOMBAY — The market was closed for a public holiday.

FRANKFURT — The West German share market made up for heavy selling on Monday after Japanese shares recovered, prompting short-covering in Frankfurt. The DAX Index ended at 1,968.33, up 37.03 points.

PARIS — Share prices closed near the day's highs, boosted by Wall Street's early gains and by fresh foreign buying. The CAC-40 Index rose 38.7 points, or 1.97 per cent, to 1,985.55.

LONDON — Shares closed higher, with the FTSE Index ending 19.1 points up at 2,240.7. Shares moved up steadily after an early decline and were given a further boost by a firm opening on Wall Street.

NEW YORK — U.S. stocks continued to roll ahead after early gains on Tokyo's partial recovery from a drop of almost 2,000 points on Monday. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was up about 20 at 2,720.

Bank of Japan no longer effective in bolstering yen

TOKYO (R) — Muscle-flexing intervention in currency markets by the Bank of Japan (BOJ) is no longer effective in propping up the staggering yen, analysts say.

"They seem to have come to a dead end as far as intervention goes," said Hiroaki Shikuzawa, a manager at Sumitomo Bank. "And they must know it."

The central bank spent a record 1,107 trillion yen (\$7.2 billion) in March to defend the yen in currency markets, the Ministry of Finance said in a monthly report released Monday.

But traders said this huge investment had only slowed the yen's slide.

Based on an average year/dollar rate of 153.19 yen in March, the bank spent the equivalent of \$7.6 billion in defence of the Japanese currency, the figures show.

"There was a more intense effort at the beginning of the month when they were desperately trying to hold the line at 150 yen to the dollar," said Yoshiro Okabe, senior manager at Midland Bank. "They seemed ready to give up by month-end."

The dollar closed in Tokyo at 159.95 yen Monday against 158.50 in New York Friday, after hitting a three-year, three-month high of 160.35 earlier in the day.

On March 1, it closed at 149.7 yen.

Dealers said there were structural reasons for the yen's depreciation — the narrowing of Japan's trade and current account surpluses, the increase of direct foreign investments by Japanese firms, and the market's impression that Japan was unable to manage its

own economy.

Japan's current account, its broadest measure of trade in goods and services, has narrowed continuously for 12 months.

"There is so little reason to support the yen now," said Yuichi Sugiyama, a manager at Sanwa Bank. "History is changing, and assessment of the yen is changing as well. Massive intervention cannot reverse this."

The central bank's dollar-selling intervention in fiscal 1989, which ended in March, was a record 4.76 trillion yen (\$3.2 billion), the report said.

"Even seen at a yearly basis, they have increasingly lost control," said Midland Bank's Okabe. "It's not like the days of the (1985) Plaza Accord, when the market truly responded because then, that was the direction it was bound for."

The Plaza Accord, named after New York's Plaza Hotel, was aimed at driving down the dollar and was reached in September 1985. It was followed by massive concerted intervention among the group of five (G-5) industrialised countries which pushed the yen up nearly 100 yen against the dollar in two years.

Dealers said the BOJ, by clinging to the notion of international policy coordination in managing exchange rates, was out of step.

"We have entered an era in which each country minds its own policies first," said Satoshi Matsuda, foreign exchange manager at Mitsubishi Trust Bank. "The BOJ looks alone in its fight."

"It's become more and more apparent that the yen's fall has

deep-seated reasons," said Sumitomo's Shikuzawa.

"Money can't buy love, and the yen is not loved now."

Stocks bounces back

Prices on the Tokyo stock exchange rose sharply Tuesday in nervous, roller-coaster trading, as the U.S. dollar dropped against the Japanese yen.

The 225-share Nikkei stock average gained a hefty 757.65 points, or 2.7 per cent, ending the day at 28,757.65. In morning trading, the index first rose more than 500 points, then fell below 28,000-point line.

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Analysts said both currency and stock markets were shaken Monday by a report in a leading Japanese financial newspaper that major life insurers planned to shift funds out of the stock market.

G-7 ministers to discuss Eurobank, IMF issues

WASHINGTON (R) — Finance ministers from the group of seven (G-7) major industrial nations get a chance this weekend to settle critical issues concerning a new European development bank and a funding increase for the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Amid the turbulence on financial markets in recent months, the ministers and central bank governors from France, Italy, Britain, the United States, Canada, Japan and West Germany will also be able to discuss international currency exchange rate coordination when they meet in Paris Saturday.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady has made it clear in recent testimony before Congress in Washington that the United States wants to join the proposed European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) but there are issues that must be resolved before the United States can join.

Diplomats said Mubarak, who last year described the IMF as a "quack doctor," fears a speedy implementation of the Washington-based fund's demands could trigger social unrest.

Officials said the IMF and the World Bank were also demanding a rise in electricity and fuel prices and a cut in subsidised commodities such as bread, rice and edible oil.

Diplomats say Egypt, which receives some \$2.1 billion a year in U.S. aid, had no alternative but to accept the IMF's demands.

A negotiating session on the bank, which would help Eastern European countries move toward multi-party democracies and market economies, is due to be held in Paris Sunday and Monday immediately after the G-7 ministerial meeting.

Under-Secretary of Treasury David Mulford, the chief U.S. negotiator on the proposed bank,

has said the United States does not want the Soviet Union, with its huge economy, to grab the lion's share of the new bank's lending.

"We continue to believe that Soviet borrowing from this bank should be limited for a period of time to the capital they contribute to the EBRD," Mulford said in testimony to the Senate, which must approve U.S. participation in the bank.

The other major industrial countries have an 8.5 per cent share in the bank, but European Community countries would control it with a 51 per cent share.

U.S. officials are also seeking a 10 per cent share in the bank, which would make the United States the largest single shareholder, and a fixed dollar commitment. Mulford said the administration does not want to approach Congress with an open-ended funding request.

The bank is expected to start with about \$12 billion in capital, with a U.S. commitment of \$1.21 billion.

Mulford said he hoped the major issues would be resolved at the Paris negotiating session following the G-7 meeting. But several other issues remain undecided, including the bank's location.

"There are some technical problems but no real fundamental policy issues to work out," he said.

Delinquent countries owe more than \$4 billion in back payments to the agency and U.S. officials believe these arrears need to be dealt with if a proposed increase in U.S. contributions to the IMF is to get through Congress.

The credit company said I have to refuse your card and spank you in front of all the other customers."

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Petrochemical plant may cost \$3b

KUWAIT (R) — The total cost of a petrochemical complex which Kuwaiti planners approved last month could be \$3 billion, a senior Kuwaiti economist said Tuesday. He said the original estimated cost of the eight-plant complex of 600 million dinars (\$2 billion) was expected to rise 50 per cent. The official said the plant, to be financed by local sources, would start production in 1994. "Oil Minister Al Khalifa Al Sabah wants it to come on stream as soon as possible because it has a major role in backing Kuwaiti industrial and petrochemical projects," he said. He hoped the project would soon be opened for international bidding. The complex, part of Kuwait's plans to boost exports of refined products, will use domestic naphtha and natural gas as feedstock to produce polythene, ethylene glycol, polystyrene, styrene monomer, styrene butadiene and aromatics.

Mandela welcomes crackdown but sceptical over effectiveness

PIETERMARITZBURG (R) — Black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela Tuesday welcomed President F.W. de Klerk's decision to send troops to pacify South Africa's black townships, but demanded government consultations.

After visiting scenes of some of the bloodiest fighting in townships around the white city of Pietermaritzburg, Mandela told a news conference: "We welcome the measures which the president has implemented... but there are serious problems."

"A unilateral action on the part of the government without consultation with black leaders is bound to be ineffective, no matter the merits," he said.

De Klerk announced Monday he had ordered more troops and police in black areas to quell violence that has claimed more than 400 lives since Mandela, the most prominent black leader, was freed from jail and his African

National Congress (ANC) and other opposition groups were legalised two months ago.

Mandela demanded the removal of the head of South Africa's police, saying he was "uncooperative and has no sympathy for black aspirations."

He mentioned no names, but was assumed to be referring to Adrian Vlock, the hardline law and order minister, whose portfolio includes responsibility for police.

"We can see no solution until the man has been removed from that position," he said.

Mandela refused to say whether he would demand his dismissal when he meets De

Klerk in Cape Town Thursday for talks expected to centre on township violence and on the ANC's suspension of exploratory discussions with the government on South Africa's future.

The long-awaited "talks about" due to have begun on April 11, were called off by the ANC in protest against the killing of up to 17 black demonstrators by police in the Johannesburg township of Soweto last week.

The ANC accuses white-led security forces of inciting unrest in the teeming townships and homelands where most blacks live. White officials counter that black leaders appear incapable of controlling radical supporters.

Police Tuesday reported two more killings in Natal, where supporters of the ANC-aligned United Democratic Front (UDF) are fighting Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha Movement.

The victims included a special police constable who was decapitated.

Police listed 11 hacked or burned bodies recovered from weekend fighting between gangs of thousands armed with automatic weapons, spears and slashing knives called pangas. At least 60 people have been killed in the past week.

Reporters in the area Tuesday said steel-helmeted white troops patrolled some of the worst-hit townships, but police said the reinforcements ordered by De Klerk had yet to arrive.

Authorities said the townships were tense but under control.

Mandela, ending a two-day tour of trouble-spots, said he saw the shot and burned body of a man buried under debris in the township of Imlali Monday night.

31 killed in Punjab bomb attack

AMRITSAR, India (AP) — A powerful bomb exploded in a vegetable market in Punjab, killing at least 31 people and injuring 60 others Tuesday as Hindu residents were celebrating a religious holiday, police said.

An indefinite curfew was imposed in Amritsar after the blast that occurred at 3 p.m. (0930 GMT) when the market was crowded with holiday shoppers, senior Police Superintendent S. G. Goel said.

He said Sikhs extremists were suspected of planting the bomb, which was hidden in a parked motor scooter. Sikh militants have killed more than 500 people this year in their quest to set up a separate homeland in Punjab.

Batala is 40 kilometres north of Amritsar, the Sikh holy city.

Soon after the blast, Hindu mobs buried stones at a police station 150 metres from the vegetable market, Goel said but added he did not know if any policeman was injured.

"The situation is very tense," he said.

He said 20 people were killed in the bombing and two others

died from their wounds at a hospital. The injured, many of them in serious condition, were admitted to hospitals in Batala and Amritsar.

Press Trust of India carried a preliminary list of the victims, whose names indicated that most were Hindus.

Among those killed were four women and two children, Goel said.

United News of India said the bombing occurred during a procession marking Ram Navami, a Hindu holiday celebrating the birth of Rama, a heroic warrior king. Rama is extolled in Hindu lore as an incarnation of Vishnu, a member of the supreme Hindu trinity of gods.

The United News report could not be immediately confirmed.

Earlier Tuesday, a bomb exploded on a bus in another town near Amritsar, killing the driver and one passenger, senior Police Superintendent Anil Sharma said. Police blamed Sikh extremists for the blast that happened near Taragarh, 28 kilometres northeast of Amritsar.

Sharma said both victims of the bus attack were Sikhs.

Column 8

Man to set record with 50 children

RAS AL KHAIMAH, United Arab Emirates (R) — A local man is trying to set what he believes to be a Gulf record by fathering 50 children, a local newspaper said Tuesday. Salim Juma from the small Emirate of Ras Al Khaimah already has 32 children from eight women, four of them born over the last year, and another three expected, the Gulf news said. The paper said

Juma, an employee of the Ministry of Islamic Affairs, has complained that his monthly salary of 12,000 dirhams (\$3,270) was not enough to keep his children, his current wives, and to pay off his four divorced wives. Islam allows each man up to four wives at one time.

Dolly Parton sells house for \$2m

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Entertainer Dolly Parton recently sold her three-bedroom home in the Hollywood Hills, at close to the \$2-million asking price, according to her real estate agent. Miss Parton also has a home in Tennessee, where she spends most of her time, but she is likely to buy another house in Los Angeles after she completes a 70-city concert tour with Kenny Rogers. Miss Parton bought the house, just off the Sunset Strip, about four years ago, and has thoroughly remodelled the place, said agent June Scott. "It was a very personal house to enhance her relaxation, and she liked it so much that at one point she nearly didn't sell it," Ms. Scott said. The buyers were described only as a local couple.

1 in every 6 U.S. women sterilised

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nearly one in every six American women in the normal childbearing age group has been surgically sterilised as a method of birth control, a government report shows. The results of the National Centre for Health Statistics study indicate that nearly as many women 15 to 44 opt for sterilisation as choose to use the birth control pill. Figures on abortion were not included. The study, which provides the most recent contraceptive data available, found that 16.6 per cent of those women interviewed had been sterilised, while 18.5 per cent used the pill.

The government says Nepal's system of government is democratic and the pro-Democracy Movement has been hijacked by Communist extremists.

King Birendra's government takes a hard line against the Democracy Movement

King Birendra's government has taken a hard line against the Democracy Movement. The monarch dismissed nine ministers on Sunday because they opposed the crackdown.

The government says Nepal's system of government is democratic and the pro-Democracy Movement has been hijacked by Communist extremists.

5 protesters shot dead in Nepal

gathered in the densely-populated Nardevi neighbourhood of central Kathmandu, witnesses and hospital sources said.

At least 12 spontaneous demonstrations erupted in the evening after most residents turned off their lights in a black-out protest against the government's crackdown on the Democracy Movement, witnesses said.

Witnesses said police began firing on a crowd of several thousand people near Tribhuvan University who had gathered to protest against a crackdown on the pro-democracy campaign.

At least 19 people have died since mid-February when the campaign was launched by banned political parties grouped under Movement for the Restoration of Democracy.

A number of ambulances arrived at the army and police hospitals in the capital, indicating the casualties toll may have been higher, witnesses said. The hospitals did not comment.

Police earlier in the day had prevented about 10,000 people from marching into the capital from Lalitpur, about 10 kilometres outside the city, where

Four people die in clashes with police over the weekend

Informed sources said the army has taken over security responsibilities from police in the Kathmandu Valley.

Engineering staff from Royal Nepal Airlines stopped work for three hours Monday, delaying a number of flights, airport officials said.

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U.K. defence policy remains cautious despite Soviet cuts

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LONDON (AP) — Britain must maintain a strong defence despite significant cuts in Soviet arms production, says a Ministry of Defence annual report.

Opposition politicians immediately criticised the report, calling Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Defence Minister Tom King "the last cold warriors left in Europe."

The report, issued Monday, says Soviet tank production has fallen by almost half in recent years, along with a marked drop in warplane production. Work on a new Soviet nuclear-powered cruiser has been stopped to make way for a new class of merchant ships, the report says.

But the statement of government policy, or white paper, says the fall is from extremely high production levels through the 1980s and Soviet tank output still

is more than double that of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

In a foreword to the report, which includes a colour photograph of the Berlin Wall coming down, Defence Secretary Tom King welcomed events in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, but warned of the uncertainty inherent in such changes.

"The range of possible outcomes remains wide, and not all the possibilities are comfortable. It makes no sense accordingly to throw away safeguards simply because we would like not to need them any more," the report said.

Opposition politicians criticised the government's caution.

"The government is paying lip service to the changes in Eastern Europe, but showing no willingness to adapt to these changes," said lawmaker Menzies Campbell.

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The report included a section on the spread of ballistic missiles and chemical and biological warfare technology, particularly in the Middle East.

Criminals charged for prison stay

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP) — Federal judges across the country increasingly are ordering criminals not only to pay for their crime in time behind bars, but to pay the cost of their prison stay. From Jan. 19, 1989, through the end of October, federal judges ordered 254 defendants to pay a monthly fee during their prison sentence, according to the U.S. sentencing commission in Washington. "We see this as merely an equitable and common sense thing to do," said Judge William Wilkins Jr. of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Virginia, chairman of the seven-member commission.

"If you have the wherewithal to reimburse taxpayers for the cost of your imprisonment, which you caused through the commission of a criminal act, then you ought to have to pay," Wilkins said. Some civil libertarians, however, are objecting.

State James Baker said, "the 50 per cent cut, which is embodied in our approach to the strategic arms talks, substantiates the promise of arms reductions."

On Sept. 23, 1989, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said, "the preparation and signing of the treaty on the 50 per cent reductions in strategic offensive arms now appear to be quite a realistic prospect."

The START treaty was to be a central topic of talks in Washington Wednesday and Thursday between Baker and Shevardnadze.

They were to prepare for a Bush-Gorbachev summit meeting expected to take place in Washington this summer.

Argentines still want Falklands 8 years after war

Argentina diversifies its exports to the community, eliminate trade barriers and have access to economic cooperation from the EC.

Most Argentines agreed with Menem's policy regarding Britain but still hold that the Falklands and other South Atlantic islands, controlled by the United Kingdom, are really Argentine territory.

"I understand and identify with what the government has done to improve commercial relations with Britain because it is for the good of the country," Malvinas veteran Eduardo Acosta, 27, told Reuters.

"Eight years after the war we still think the same. The islands were ours, they are ours and they will always be ours," said Acosta, assistant director of a war veterans organisation.

Argentines whose forefathers came here last century have mixed feelings about the war Monday night.

Airline smoking ban urged in Australia

PERTH, Australia (AP) — Medical authorities Monday pushed for a ban on smoking in all aircraft flying in Australian airspace. Smoking on all domestic flights has been banned since last October, but international flights with connections within Australia are exempt. "It is ludicrous that smoking on Australian domestic flights has been completely banned for some time, yet passengers on international air carriers operating domestic legs within Australia are still subjected to smoking by others," said a statement by Dr. Bryce Phillips, president of the Australian Medical Association. The medical group said it would press the Civil Aviation Authority and state and federal governments to prohibit cigarette smoking.

START treaty may leave most weapons intact

WASHINGTON (R) — A new U.S.-Soviet treaty due to be completed and signed this year will fall far short of the mutually-declared goal of halving each side's nuclear arsenals, the Washington Post reported Tuesday.

The treaty, described as in the final stages of negotiation, would allow continued deployment of nearly as many U.S. warheads as now exist, the paper said, quoting Bush administration officials and independent experts.

Negotiations on the so-called Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) began eight years ago. Senior officials were quoted as saying none of the remaining disputes involve the overall number of warheads the sides might deploy.

"Virtually none of the U.S. strategic weapons produced during the last decade of intensive modernisation must be eliminated under the treaty," the Post said.

Production of thousands more U.S. nuclear-tipped cruise missiles, submarine-launched missiles and aircraft-delivered bombs was "not constrained," said the Post.

The agreement would sharply curtail Moscow's arsenal of large, land-based missiles carrying multiple nuclear warheads and based in easily targeted underground silos, it said.

As recently as last year, the foreign ministers of each country again spoke of that goal.

On May 5, 1989, Secretary of State James Baker said, "the 50 per cent cut, which is embodied in our approach to the strategic arms talks, substantiates the promise of arms reductions."

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Global weather (major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	WEATHER
AMSTERDAM	7°C	17°C	Cloudy
ATHENS	27°C	34°C	Cloudy
BAKU	15°C	24°C	Cloudy
BANGKOK	28°C	34°C	Cloudy
BUENOS AIRES	14°C	27°C	77% Rain
CARIO	19°C	21°C	70% Cloudy
CHICAGO	9°C	18°C	56% Clear
COPENHAGEN	6°C	13°C	50% Clear
FRANKFURT	8°C	19°C	88% Clear
GENEVA	9°C	17°C	64% Cloudy
HONG KONG	21°C	27°C	81% Clear